DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Steven C. Bruess, Reg. No. 34,130 on the 23 of April, 2008, that discussed about a proposal amendment to new added claim 15. The Attorney for Applicant also faxed the proposal amended claims to Examiner on the 24 of April, 2008.

Claim 15 is amended as follows:

15. (Examiner amended) An optical fiber plug-in connection comprising:

a coupling including a first guiding sleeve extending from a first end to a second end; a first plug-in connector having a first ferrule, a first compression spring, and a first latch arrangement, the first ferrule being configured to be received within the first end of the first guiding sleeve, the first latch arrangement being T-shaped, and the first latch arrangement being biased away from the coupling by the first compression spring when the first plug-in connector is mounted to the coupling, wherein the first latch arrangement of the first plug-in connector is configured to remain radially fixed with respect to the first ferrule; and

a second plug-in connector having a second ferrule, a second compression spring, and a second latch arrangement, the second ferrule being configured to be received within the second end of the first guiding sleeve, the second latch arrangement being T-shaped , and the second

latch arrangement being biased away from the coupling by the second compression spring when the second plug-in connector is mounted to the coupling, wherein the second latch arrangement of the second plug-in connector is configured to remain radially fixed with respect to the second ferrule.

Status of the Application

New claims 15-20 have been added.

Claims 6 and 7 are cancelled.

Claims 1-5 and 8-20 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not show or fairly suggest the claimed invention of a ... having the claimed structure and claimed limitations, wherein a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103 would be improper.

Eigenmann et al. (US. Pub. 2005/0135753) is the most relevant prior arts of record.

Eigenmann et al. disclose an optical fiber plug-in connection system 10 comprising at least one pair of plug-in connectors 13 (from both sides of plug-in connection system 10) and a coupling 11 each plug-in connector 13 having a ferrule 23 and the two ferrules 23 of a pair of plug-in connectors 13 respectively being detachably guided and aligned with respect to each other within a guiding sleeve 45, and the coupling respectively having a receptacle with opening 16 and guiding grooves 47 for each plug-in connector 13 of a pair of plug-in connectors wherein the coupling 11 comprises a single component or housing 12 ("Abstract", Fig. 1 and Fig. 3).

Regarding **claims 1 and 15, Eigenmann et al.** alone or in combination, however, still fail to teach a T- shaped attachment (or a T-shaped latch arrangement); wherein the T-shaped attachment/arrangement of each arresting part is configured to be inserted into the first end of the guiding groove and biased by the compression spring in an axial direction to the second end of the guiding groove; or the T-shaped latch arrangement being biased away from the coupling by a compression spring when a plug-in connector is mounted to the coupling, wherein the latch arrangement of the plug-in connector is configured to remain radially fixed with respect to its ferrule. Therefore, the plug-in connector is mounted and guided in the coupling and the ferrules are mounted and guided in the guiding sleeve in a simple way.

Therefore in light of the Applicant's amendment, claims **1** and **15** are allowable as distinguishes over the prior art of record because of the reason stated above. It is this examiner's position that prior art taken alone, fails to disclose or render obvious in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claims.

Claims 2-5, 8-14 and 16-20 are allowable as dependent claims of claims 1 and 15.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-9790. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F   07:30 AM - 05:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hung Lam//BRIAN M. HEALY/
for FRANK FONT, SPE of Art Unit 2883
Examiner, Art Unit 2883

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